

# THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME IV.]

*Nec aranearum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

[NUMBER 14.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11, 1852.

## THE GLEANER.

### LEGISLATURE OF LOWER CANADA.

QUEBEC, November 5.

This day, at two o'clock, His Excellency the Governor in Chief came down in State to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent down to the House of Assembly to command their attendance before His Excellency, and the House being come up, His Excellency was pleased to open a Third Session of the Fourteenth Provincial Parliament with the following SPEECH:

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

I have called you together at a period precisely corresponding with that of your last year's meeting, being still under the impression that it is the best suited to the convenience of the majority of the Members of the two Houses of the Provincial Parliament.

It is, besides, peculiarly desirable that the present Session should commence at an early period, in order to afford sufficient time for bringing to maturity, such measures as were in progress at the close of the last Session; and for taking up the consideration of such other measures as the growing wealth and prosperity of the Province may suggest.

The period having arrived for effecting a new adjustment of the proportion to be paid to Upper Canada, of certain duties levied in this Province, the Commissioners nominated on the part of the two provinces, respectively, under the provisions of the Act 3, Geo. IV. cap. 119, have recently met and entered largely into the consideration of that subject, and although the discussion which ensued thereupon was conducted with no less cordiality and good feeling, than with ability and diligence on both sides, I am concerned, at having to announce to you, that the Commissioners have separated without coming to any decision upon the important question entrusted to their management; and having moreover, differed in regard to the appointment, conjointly, of a third Commissioner or Arbitrator, it becomes necessary, according to the provisions of the above mentioned Act, (section 17th) to refer the matter to His Majesty's Government for the purpose of obtaining the appointment of an Arbitrator under the Royal sign manual.

The subject of the Currency has been brought under your notice upon more than one occasion during the last few years; but no practical measure having resulted from the consideration of it, I think it necessary to advert to it again; not so much with a view to the adoption of any general and comprehensive system, as to suggest the expediency of providing for the wants of the public by the creation of a metallic currency of inferior value, to replace the small silver coin, and copper now in circulation, the intrinsic value of which (especially of the latter) is notoriously much below its current value.

Of the temporary Acts of the Legislature which are about to expire, I desire to call your particular attention to the following, viz:—

1st.—An Act relating to the fisheries in the County of Gaspé, repealed in part by the 1st of Will. 4, cap. 22, which expires on the 1st May, 1833.

2d.—An Act to establish Registry offices in the Counties of Drummond, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, Shefford and Missisquoi, amended and extended by the 1st Will. 4, cap. 3, second section further extended by 2d Wm. 4, cap. 7, duration till 1st of February, 1833.

And 3dly.—An Act to establish Boards of Health within this Province, and to enforce an effectual system of Quarantine, which expires on the 1st May, 1833.

I think it necessary here to refer to that part of my Speech to you at the opening of the last Session, which relates to the Townships: the increasing importance of that interesting portion of the Province—the habits of its population—and their wishes connected with the advancement of their own peculiar interest, are subjects which well deserve the attention of the Legislature.

By the enactment of Laws calculated to meet the diversified wants of a mixed population, like that of Lower Canada, the general prosperity of the country will be advanced, and the peace and contentment of all classes of His Majesty's subjects in the Province established upon a solid and lasting basis. The foregoing remark embraces a truth so obvious, that it may perhaps be thought superfluous to introduce it on the present occasion. But my mind is so deeply impressed with a sense of the importance (I might, perhaps, add the necessity) of effecting a strict and cordial union of interests and public feeling throughout the Province, that I cannot abstain from seizing upon every opportunity which presents itself for promoting the success of an object of such paramount interest, an object which [as it appears to me] it is no less the duty, than it is manifestly the true interest of every inhabitant of Lower Canada to assist in promoting to the utmost of his ability, and in preference to every other consideration.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The Supply Bill voted during the last Session, which in consequence of particular circumstances with which you are already acquainted, and in conformity with the instructions received by me from His Majesty's Government, was reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, has subsequently received the Royal Sanction. Upon this subject it will be my duty to make an early communication to you by a Special Message.

The appropriation of last Session for giving effect to the provisions of the Act to establish Boards of Health within this Province, and to enforce an effectual system of Quarantine, although liberal in its amount, has nevertheless proved inadequate to the demands made upon it. But the excess has not been so considerably as there was reason to apprehend from the prevalence of Asiatic Cholera Morbus in most parts of the Province; which rendered necessary the creation of not less than ten Boards of Health with their corresponding establishments, in addition to the expensive establishment at Grosse Isle. I trust that the excess alluded to, will be provided for with the same liberality which prompted the original grant.

I avail myself of this opportunity to suggest the expediency of making provision for the possible necessity for incurring further expense on the same account during the current year.

The accounts of the general expenditure of the Province, during the past year, are in a forward state of preparation, and will, I trust, be in readiness to be laid before you at the period prescribed by Legislative regulation. Should any delay take place in rendering these accounts, it is to be ascribed to the great labour necessary in preparing the voluminous and detailed statements required from the Executive branch of the Legislature, of all its disbursements of public money.

An estimate of the expences of the Civil Government for the ensuing year, framed according to the instructions of His Majesty's Government, will in like manner, be laid before you.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The apprehensions evinced by the Legislature during the last session, by the passing of the Act to establish Boards of Health within the Province, and to enforce an effectual system of quarantine, have been but too fatally realized; and the frightful disease, the introduc-

tion of which it was the principal object of that Act to prevent, has visited the Colony with a degree of violence of which there are few examples on record, in other parts of the world.

Happily that disease is now considered to have ceased to prevail epidemically in the Province; but in the event of its re-appearance, it may be presumed that the experience acquired during its late visitation, will [if those establishments are to be maintained] enable the several Boards of Health to improve upon the regulations already adopted by them.

I should be guilty of injustice towards the individuals composing and connected with those establishments, especially the gentlemen of the Medical profession, were I to pass over in silence the meritorious services performed by them in the discharge of an arduous, important, and [in many instances] an invidious duty; the nature of that duty being altogether new in this country, the performance of it was attended with many difficulties in the commencement. These have been gradually overcome through the united effects of zeal and experience, and I trust that the services to which I now allude will be duly appreciated by the public for whose benefit they were undertaken.

The gratuitous assistance rendered to the poorer classes of society by the medical faculty, generally, throughout the Province, is also entitled to warm commendation.

Before I take leave of this subject, and close the present address, I must not omit to offer the tribute of praise due in a quarter which I approach with sentiments of the most profound respect:—you will, I am sure, have anticipated me when I add, that I here allude to the meritorious exertions of the Clergy in general, during that awful visitation, with which it has pleased Divine Providence to afflict this land. In that season of terror and dismay, where even to approach the dwellings of those who were suffering under the influence of the prevailing disease, required with many persons an effort of the mind, the ministers of religion went courageously forth, and entering the abodes of disease and death, were there to be found, day after day, and night after night, bending over some devoted victim of the fatal malady; and, whilst inhaling the tainted breath that issued from his distempered frame, poured words of comfort and consolation in his ear, and preparing his soul for its passage into another state of existence—such exalted instances of self-devotion are far, very far beyond the reach of any praise that I have the power to bestow; and I will, therefore, only add, that by their conduct during the late prevalence of disease in the Province, the clergy in general have acquired new claims upon the love, the gratitude, the veneration and the confidence of the people committed to their spiritual care.

The business of the Legislature of Upper Canada has commenced. The re-expulsion of Mr M'Kenzie, the member for York was one of the first acts of the Assembly. We are no advocates of Mr M'Kenzie or his politics, but we are sorry to see the very respectable Assembly of Upper Canada adopting a proceeding which savours more of party spirit than of cool and deliberate justice. We have all along protested against the reiterated expulsions of Mr Christie from the Assembly of this Province, and we see no difference in the position of the two offending members, but that Mr M'Kenzie's offence was committed against the Parliament by which he is expelled, and that, of which Mr Christie is alleged to have been guilty, is stated to have been committed against a Parliament which had expired, and ceased to exist before Mr C. was first returned from Gaspé. *Quebec Mercury.*

STATE OF LOWER CANADA.—There is a growing spirit of opposition at present at work in Lower Canada, which has given some trouble, and threatens, if not